

Message

From: Burke, NadiaHollan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9FF053AAF74C4A17A574A2A9A8C8B70D-NHOLLAN]
Sent: 8/22/2016 10:45:25 PM
To: Rosario Alvarez [Personal Email / Ex. 6]
Subject: RE: please read !

Hi Rosario Alvarez, thank you for your inquiry. I will have to find out who at EPA is working on this issue (if anyone) and get back to you. I am assigned Treasure Island, and another project manager is assigned Hunters Point, but I am unsure of the status of the "Farallon Island Radioactive Waste Dump" mentioned in the USGS weblink you provided. Also, you cited two articles (2009 and 1997), would you be able to provide copies of those? I couldn't seem to find them on the website references.

Based on the information in the USGS website, it appears that many of the drums of low-level radioactive waste have been located. It also appears that to investigate these questions, the USGS cooperated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the NOAA Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Navy. Therefore, I would like to find out what specific EPA division and personnel were involved from the EPA with these USGS studies and get more information from them. This may take several days, I appreciate your patience with a follow-up response.

Nadia Hollan Burke, Environmental Engineer
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From: Rosario Alvarez [Personal Email / Ex. 6]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2016 2:47 PM
To: Burke, NadiaHollan <Burke.NadiaHollan@epa.gov>
Subject: please read !

Hello Ms. Burke,

After debating on whether I should email you or not, I decided to. I hope that you may read my letter. I will anxiously await for a reply. I have decided to copy and paste a letter I was going to mail. I chose to email it because it is quicker.

Thank You,
Rosario Alvarez

Ms. Nadia Hollan Burke
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street, (SFD-8-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105

August 12, 2016

Dear Ms. Burke,

The Bay Area has been the victim of warfare and the home to many naval bases, shipyards, weapons labs, and as well the location to nuclear dumping, as you probably already are aware of. Areas in which there is much of the left overs still currently present. Substances such as plutonium, radium, and cesium 137. Along with these types of chemicals there was also the dumping of 47,800 barrels containing toxic nuclear waste (Karl et al., 2009). According to Karl et al. (2009) their reports in the United States Geological Survey states, “47,800 containers of low-level radioactive waste--many of which now lie within the Sanctuary boundary--that were dumped in the ocean between 1946 and 1970”. It has been recorded that the elements in these barrels are highly toxic and full of radioactive material. These materials are capable of contaminating and destabilizing ocean life and spreading onto the land where humans population is present. The areas of interest are Treasure Island, Hunters Point, and the Farallon Islands in San Francisco are the most known to be tainted.

I am aware that we cannot reverse the damage that began over a half a century ago overnight, but we can and must begin to be more ambitious to prevent this from affecting these areas by taking the appropriate action and protecting the ecosystem that ultimately will affect us and the food web. I am well informed and have read in an old San Francisco Examiners article from 1997 titled *Bay's Nuclear Leftovers*, your agency insist that these contaminated areas do not pose any “significant” threat (Kay & McCormick, 1997). On the other hand there is a publication (USGS) that there is insufficient evidence that the radioactive materials present are low enough not to pose any threat to humans or environment. A major concern pertains to the health and wellbeing of its residents. While these areas are currently active clean up areas, yet these areas are continuously expanding and due to the increase of the population.

The areas of Hunters Point, Treasure Island, and the Farallon Islands all fall under your jurisdiction of region nine. Therefore that is the reason I am addressing this concern to you. You have provided regulatory oversight of investigations, cleanup, and monitoring of hazardous waste/contamination for the past 19 years, since September 1997. In addition, you have great experience towards developing innovative ways of treating water with contaminated with volatile compounds. It appears that you have a great passion in cleaning up our contaminated waters of the Bay Area. I hope that you may entertain the idea of locating the 47,800 barrels lost barrels that are full of radioactive material and polluting the Gulf of the Farallon National Marine Sanctuary along with our local coastal areas.

Thank you for your time,

Rosario Alvarez

Karl, H. A., Chin, J. L., Ueber, E., Stauffer, P. H., & Hendley, J. W. (2009). *Gulf of the Farallones Disposal Issues* (United States, United States Geological Survey, Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center). Reston, VA: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. <http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/farallon/radwaste>

Kay, J., & McCormick, E. (1997, November 25). Bay's Nuclear Left Overs. *San Francisco Examiner*. Chin, J.L., & Ota, A.